

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 45-51 and 53-57 are now pending.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 5, 2003. It is respectfully requested that the examiner now acknowledge consideration of that information disclosure statement by returning an initialed and dated copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied the same.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As discussed during the interview of October 2, 2002, claim 1 has been revised above to refer to an "edge" at each longitudinal end of the core assembly. A similar revision has been made to claim 45 and the typographical error in claim 45 noted by the Examiner has been corrected. The limitation to a longitudinal end edge is offered solely in response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and, therefore, entry of this amendment after final rejection is solicited as reducing issues.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. The allowable subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into an amended claim 1 so that claims 1 and 2 should now be allowed. Claim 3 has been canceled accordingly.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 47- and 48 contain allowable subject matter. The allowable limitations of claim 47 and intervening claim 46 have been incorporated into amended claim 45 and claims 46 and 47 have been canceled. Allowable dependent claim 48 has been represented as new independent claim 54. Therefore, claim 54 should be allowed. Claims 55-57

correspond to claims 49-51, but have been re-presented to depend from new independent claim 54. It is noted that by this amendment, four claims are canceled so that applicant does not propose to add more claims than those canceled by this amendment. Moreover, for the reasons noted above, all added claims are allowable.

Claim 52 has been canceled without prejudice to advance prosecution of this application.

In view of the amendments presented above, the Examiner's prior art rejections are submitted to be moot. An early notice of allowance of claims 1, 2, 45-51 and 53-57 is requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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